KIM IL SUNG

TALK TO A DELEGATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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I am very happy to meet you; I warmly welcome your visit to our country.

You are active public figures who fight to support the reunification of Korea. I am very grateful to you for rousing many people in all lands to support our people's cause of national reunification. I highly estimate your meritorious services.

Korea must be reunified. The peaceful solution of the question of Korea's reunification is very important also for world peace.

At present there is no country in the world where the situation is as strained as here in Korea. It is true that the situation in Central America, Southern Africa and the Middle East is also strained. But the situation in our country is tenser than that in those parts of the world. A particularly dangerous aspect of our situation is that south Korea has been turned into a complete military base of the US, into its nuclear advance base.

Once war breaks out in our country, it will instantly spread into a global thermonuclear war. If there is another world war, our country may again become a victim of outside forces. Our country is in an extremely dangerous situation today.

We must preserve peace in Korea, and therefore, we must reunify our country by peaceful means. Every Korean, whether in the north or in the south, wants the peaceful reunification of the country. Only the US and those who follow in its wake are against our country being peacefully reunified.

The Americans are plotting to divide our country into "two Koreas" for ever. They attempt to divide and rule Korea with a view to converting south Korea into their permanent military base.

The Americans keep south Korea as their military base and

are not willing to give it up in order to oppose the socialist countries as well as our country.

Neither the people in the northern half of Korea nor the south Korean people want south Korea to remain a US military base.

In an endeavour to ease tension in our country, we have advanced various proposals to the US and the south Korean side. Last year we proposed to hold tripartite talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the US and south Korea. But the Americans have not responded to our proposal. So far there has been no word from the Americans.

US President Reagan demanded that the north and the south of Korea should first have talks. Taking this US demand into consideration, last April the DPRK addressed a letter to the south Korean "National Assembly" on holding north-south parliamentary talks. In the letter we proposed to the south Korean side that the north and the south hold talks of parliamentary delegates or a joint session of both parliaments to discuss the matter of making a north-south joint declaration of nonaggression. Our proposal on north-south parliamentary talks is designed to ease tension in Korea and provide a favourable precondition for its independent, peaceful reunification through the north-south joint declaration of nonaggression.

The south Korean side put off their reply to our proposal for a long time before they suggested that the proposed talks be held, though not to discuss the problem of the joint declaration of nonaggression but rather that of instituting a "unification constitution." In the tense situation now prevailing in our country, how can the problem of instituting a "unification constitution" be discussed at north-south parliamentary talks? Considering the opinion of the south Korean side, however, we proposed that the talks discuss both the problems of the joint declaration of nonaggression and a "unification constitution."

The south Korean side rejected that too. So we suggested that the north-south parliamentary talks simplify their agenda item and discuss the question of easing tension between north and south and promoting national reunification. The south Korean side said they would have to study our proposal as it contained something new.

The south Korean side is taking issue with us, saying that our proposal for simplifying the agenda item of the north-south parliamentary talks is not specific but too general. When we put forward the detailed agenda item of the parliamentary talks, the south Korean side criticized our proposal and would not accept it. Then, when we advance a single agenda item combining concrete problems, they do not accept it, claiming that it is vague.

The US and south Korean authorities do not agree to our proposals for tripartite talks and north-south parliamentary talks because if, through these talks, a peace agreement is concluded between us and the United States to replace the Armistice Agreement, and a north-south joint declaration of nonaggression is made, there will be no pretext for US troops to remain in south Korea.

Alleging that there is the “threat of southward invasion” in Korea, the US clamours that its troops should remain in south Korea in order to “defend” it. If we and the US replace the Armistice Agreement with the peace agreement, and the north and south of Korea make a joint declaration of nonaggression, that would afford a legal guarantee that we would not “invade the south.”

We have declared more than once that we will not “invade the south” nor will we attempt to communize south Korea or force socialism upon it.

We hold that the country should be reunified by establishing a unified national government in which the north and the south are

represented on an equal footing, on condition that the two sides recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and social systems. However, the Americans and the south Korean puppets do not accept our just proposals, claiming that we are carrying on peace propaganda to step up war preparations and that they do not understand our real intentions. In a word, the south Korean authorities do not want the easing of tension in our country and its reunification. They are trying to turn our country into "two Koreas" and leave south Korea to the US as its permanent military base.

Your effort to support the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea is a just and commendable one for world peace.

I hope you will work harder for world peace, particularly to ease tension and maintain peace in Korea and to achieve its reunification. I also hope you will rouse the world's people to raise their righteous voice still higher to expose and condemn the US imperialist schemes to turn south Korea into their permanent colony and military base under the pretext that there exists the "threat of southward invasion" in our country.

Today I have explained our stand on the question of Korea's reunification to you, who strongly support our people's cause of national reunification.

Let me reiterate my warm welcome on your visit to our country. Some of you have met me already and others are meeting me for the first time. When we meet again in the future, we will all be old friends, close comrades-in-arms.

I wish you to convey the greetings of the Korean people to the peoples of your respective countries on your return home.

The Korean people will advance hand in hand with you for the peace of the world.

I hope you will be in good health during your stay here and return home with good impressions of your visit to our country.